

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims should be amended to read as follows:

1.-47. (Canceled).

48. (New) A coating system comprising:

a coating chamber;

a vibration source having a diaphragm exposed to the coating chamber, the vibration source configured to generate pressure waves sufficient to suspend a cage positioned in the coating chamber above the vibration source without the vibration source contacting the cage; and

a coating source, the coating source positioned to introduce coating into the coating chamber

wherein the vibration source is positioned below a screen and wherein the source of coating contains a therapeutic.

49. (New) The system of claim 48 further comprising a coating filter coupled to the coating chamber.

50. (New) The system of claim 48 wherein the vibration source is exposed to the coating chamber.

51. (New) The system of claim 48 wherein the coating source contains a coating that covers a surface of a medical device positioned in the coating chamber after the medical device is removed from the coating chamber.

52. (New) The system of claim 48 wherein the coating chamber contains a medical device.

53. (New) The system of claim 52 wherein the medical device is a stent.

54. (New) The system of claim 48 wherein the coating chamber contains a plurality of medical devices.

55. (New) A coating system comprising:

a coating chamber;

a vibration source having a diaphragm exposed to the coating chamber, the vibration source configured to generate pressure waves sufficient to suspend a cage positioned in the coating chamber above the vibration source without the vibration source contacting the cage; and

a coating source, the coating source positioned to introduce coating into the coating chamber wherein the coating source is positioned above a screen in the coating chamber.

56. (New) An apparatus for coating a medical implant comprising:

a coating chamber;

a vibration source, the vibration source adapted to suspend an implantable medical device positioned in the coating chamber above the vibration source; and

a coating source, the coating source configured to introduce coating into the coating chamber;

wherein the coating source includes a nozzle coupled to a supply of coating,

wherein the vibration source has a vibrating structure positioned within the coating chamber, the vibrating structure having an exposed side, wherein the exposed side has a space between it and the coating chamber and

wherein the nozzle is positioned beneath the vibrating structure.

57. (New) An apparatus for coating a medical implant comprising:

a coating area sized to accept medical implants for implantation within the body of a patient;

a source of therapeutic coating having an exit point in fluid communication with the coating area;

a screen positioned in the coating area; and

an acoustic vibration source positioned beneath the screen, the vibration source adapted to vibrate at a rate sufficient to lift a medical implant positioned on the screen away from the screen,

and wherein the vibration source has a diaphragm that is in fluid communication with the coating area.

58. (New) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the diaphragm of the vibration source is exposed to the coating area.

59. (New) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the exit point comprises a nozzle.
60. (New) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the coating area is an enclosed space.
61. (New) An apparatus for coating a medical implant comprising:
a coating area adapted to receive medical implants for implantation within the body of a patient;
means for supplying a therapeutic coating into the coating area; and
means for suspending the medical implants in the coating area during the coating process;
wherein the means for suspending the medical implants in the coating area during the coating process comprises a vibration structure and a nozzle,
and wherein the vibrating structure has an exposed side, wherein the exposed side has a space between it and the coating area.